

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for securing a screw comprising:
a longitudinal shank having a central axis and rear and front ends;
a spindle, located at the front end of the longitudinal shank and concentric to the central axis, having front and rear ends, a substantially polygonal-shaped cross-section with a plurality of rounded edges and a plurality of concave side surfaces, a groove substantially parallel to the central axis, and a borehole coextensive with the groove; and

a spring wire having top and bottom ends and a middle portion disposed between the top and bottom ends, with the bottom end inserted into the borehole and the top end inserted into the groove,

wherein, the spring wire, proceeding from the middle portion thereof toward the top end thereof, projects transversely away from ~~to~~ the central axis ~~across the cross-section~~ when unstressed, and, when the spindle is received into a screwhead aperture of the screw, ~~and the top end of the spring wire secures the screw is secured into in position upon stress to the spring wire,~~ ~~and wherein the groove and the borehole are flush with one of the plurality of rounded edges or one of the plurality of concave side surfaces.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the rear end of the longitudinal shank is configured and dimensioned to be received into a motor-driven screwdriver.

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the rear end of the longitudinal shank is configured and dimensioned to be received by a screwdriver.
4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the shank has a first diameter and the spindle has a second diameter less than the first diameter.
5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the spindle has a hexagonal shape.
6. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1, wherein the groove and the borehole are flush with one of the plurality of rounded edges.
7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the groove and the borehole are flush with one of the plurality of concave side surfaces.
8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the spring wire is bendable substantially perpendicular to the central axis.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1, wherein the elastic component is a spring wire.
12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the spring wire has a width of 2 mm.
13. (Withdrawn) A method of securing a screw while implanting into a body comprising:
 - providing a screw having an aperture in a screwhead;
 - providing the device of claim 1; and

inserting the spindle into the aperture resulting in stress to the spring wire,
wherein upon application of the stress, the spring wire holds the screw in a steady
position.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the screw is a bone or
pedicle screw.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the groove and the
borehole are flush with one of the plurality of rounded edges.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the groove and the
borehole are flush with one of the plurality of concave side surfaces.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the spring wire is
bendable substantially perpendicular to the central axis.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the top end of the spring
wire is fixed in the groove.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the top end of the spring
wire is bonded, soldered, or clamped into the groove.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the elastic component is a
spring wire.

21. (Not entered)

22. (Not entered)

23. (New) A device for securing a screw comprising:

a longitudinal shank having (i) a central axis and (ii) front and rear ends;

a spindle located at the front end of the longitudinal shank and concentric about the central axis, the spindle having (i) front and rear ends, (ii) a substantially polygonal-shaped cross-section with a plurality of rounded edges and a plurality of concave side surfaces, (iii) a groove substantially parallel to the central axis, and (iv) a borehole coextensive with the groove; and

a spring wire having top and bottom ends and a middle portion disposed between the top and bottom ends, wherein the bottom end of the spring wire is inserted into the borehole and the middle portion lies along the groove;

wherein, the spring wire, proceeding from the middle portion thereof toward the top end thereof, projects transversely away from the central axis when unstressed, and, when the spindle is received into a screwhead aperture of the screw, the top end of the spring wire secures the screw in position.

and the screw is secured into position upon stress to the spring wire, and wherein the groove and the borehole are flush with one of the plurality of rounded edges or one of the plurality of concave side surfaces.